

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for screening a compound that is able to suppress aberrant immune activity, wherein the aberrant immune activity is selected from aberrant immune complex formation, aberrant immune complex clearance and immune complex induced inflammation, the method comprising the steps of:

a. administering a compound to be screened to transgenic ~~rodent~~mouse generated by transgenically modifying an embryo from a strain that is resistant to collagen-induced arthritis, such that said ~~rodent~~mouse comprises and expresses a transgene for human FcγRIIa receptor, whereby the expression of said FcγRIIa renders the ~~rodent~~mouse susceptible to an autoimmune disease caused by aberrant immune complex formation, aberrant immune complex clearance or immune complex induced inflammation; and

b. assessing the transgenic ~~rodent~~mouse to determine if the compound reduces aberrant immune activity in the rodent.

2. (currently amended) A method of screening a compound that is able to suppress an autoimmune disease caused by aberrant immune complex formation, aberrant immune complex clearance or immune complex induced inflammation by suppressing aberrant immune activity selected from aberrant immune complex formation, aberrant immune complex clearance and immune complex induced inflammation, the method comprising the steps of:

a. administering a compound to be screened to a transgenic ~~rodent~~mouse generated by transgenically modifying an embryo from a strain that is resistant to collagen-induced arthritis, such that said ~~rodent~~mouse comprises and expresses a transgene for human FcγRIIa receptor, whereby the expression of said FcγRIIa renders the ~~rodent~~mouse susceptible to an autoimmune disease caused by aberrant immune complex formation, aberrant immune complex clearance or immune complex induced inflammation; and

- b. assessing the transgenic ~~rodent mouse~~ to determine if the compound reduces aberrant immune activity in the rodent.

3. (currently amended) A method for screening a compound that is able to suppress an autoimmune disease caused by aberrant immune complex formation, aberrant immune complex clearance or immune complex induced inflammation, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. administering a compound to be screened to a non-human cell expressing human FcγRIIa receptor, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of platelets, neutrophils and macrophages, and wherein the cell is derived from a transgenic ~~rodent mouse~~ generated by transgenically modifying an embryo from a strain that is resistant to collagen-induced arthritis, such that said ~~rodent mouse~~ comprises and expresses a transgene for human FcγRIIa receptor, whereby the expression of said FcγRIIa renders the ~~rodent mouse~~ susceptible to an autoimmune disease caused by aberrant immune complex formation, aberrant immune complex clearance or immune complex induced inflammation; and
- b. assessing the cell to determine if the compound reduces aberrant immune activity in the cell.

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the method comprises assessing the transgenic ~~rodent mouse~~ to determine if the compound reduces immune complex induced inflammation.

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~transgenic rodent~~ is a transgenic mouse is derived from the strains C57BL/6 and SJL.

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the compound reduces aberrant immune activity in the transgenic ~~rodent mouse~~ by inhibiting the activity of FcγRIIIa expressed in the rodent.

9. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein in step (b) the aberrant immune activity is assessed in terms of clinical symptoms and/or pathological features of an autoimmune disease.

10. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

11. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the autoimmune disease is rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

12. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the autoimmune disease is collagen-induced arthritis (CIA).

13-42. (cancelled)